

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/674,355

Applicant(s)

TAKEDA ET AL.

Examiner

Trang U. Tran

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed May 16, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 11, 13-14, 17 and 20-24 (renumbered 1-10, 12-13, 11 and 14-17, respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 07/28/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with E. Russell Tarleton on July 28, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 9-10, 12, 15-16 and 19 have been cancelled.

In claim 11, line 16, after the word "coupled" and before the period, add this paragraph: --wherein said brightness limitation means comprises a minimum signal level detector or detecting the minimum signal level from among the plurality of adjusted color channel reference signals, and a comparator for generating said brightness feedback signal on the basis of the detected minimum signal level and a fixed reference signal level--.

In claim 13, line 7, after the word "signals" and before the period, add this paragraph: -- wherein receiving the plurality of color channel reference signals comprises: receiving a plurality of color channel video signals and corresponding color channel reference signals and generating in response thereto respective adjusted color channel video signals and adjusted color reference signals; receiving the adjusted color channel video signals and adjusted color reference signals and generating in response thereto respective clamping feedback signals; adding the clamping feedback signals to

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the color channel video signals; and receiving the adjusted color channel video signals and generating in response thereto a respective brightness limitation signal that is added to the color channel reference signal based on the detected signal level of an adjusted color reference signal having the lowest signal level from among the adjusted color reference signals--.

In claim 14, line 6, after the word "signals" and before the period, add this paragraph: -- wherein the feedback signal is responsive to a comparison between only a reference signal and the minimum signal level from the at least one color reference signal from the at least one color video channel; a plurality of color channel control circuits, each configured to receive a respective color channel video signal at a first adder and a color respective channel reference signal at a second adder and to generate a respective adjusted color channel video signal and a respective adjusted color reference signal; a plurality of clamping circuits, each coupled to a respective color channel control circuit to receive the adjusted color channel video signal and adjusted color reference signal and configured to generate a respective video clamping feedback signal that is received at the first adder of the respective color channel control circuit; and wherein the brightness limitation control circuit comprises a brightness limitation circuit coupled to each color channel control circuit and configured to generate a brightness feedback signal to the second adder in the respective color channel control circuit based on detection of signal level of an adjusted color reference signal having the lowest signal level among the adjusted color reference signals--.

In claim 17, line 2, the phrase "claim 16" has been changed to --claim 14--.

In claim 20, line 1, the phrase "claim 19" has been changed to --claim 13--.

These changes will place this application in condition for allowance.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to a video signal processing system. Each independent claims identifies the uniquely distinct features: "a minimum signal detector that receives the color channel reference signals as input and is arranged to output, as a minimum signal level, a signal level of a color channel reference signal having only the lowest signal level from among the color channel reference signals, and a brightness limitation circuit coupled to receive the color channel reference signal from each of the color channels and coupled to provide a feedback signal to regulate a brightness level of each video signal according to a comparison of only the minimum signal level and a fixed reference signal level". All the references of record, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trang U. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7358. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TT TT
July 28, 2006



DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER